AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ An apparatus for sealing a package having an open end, the apparatus comprising:

at least one pair of sealing halves, which are reciprocally movable between an open position and a closed sealing position, one of the sealing halves comprising sealing means for sealingly closing the open end of the package,

~~wherein the apparatus further comprises~~ forming means for forming the package comprising a pair of forming flaps, each forming flap being associated with a sealing half and each forming flap possessing a first end pivotally attached ~~at a first end~~ to a support, ~~such that a second end of~~ each forming flap ~~is adapted to~~ being directly pushed by the associated sealing half during at least ~~partly follow~~ part of the reciprocal movement of the associated sealing half to pivotally move the forming flap toward the package, and

~~in that~~ the forming flaps during the movement of the sealing halves towards the closed sealing position ~~press~~ pressing two opposing portions of the package towards each other.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the forming flaps is adapted to be pivoted from a first essentially vertical position

to a second angled position in which the second end of each forming flap is in contact with a portion adjacent the open end of each package.

3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein each of the forming flaps is biased, such that it is kept in its first essentially vertical position when the sealing halves are in their open position.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises at least three pairs of linkage arrangements including a first pair of linkage arrangements with two reciprocally movable halves provided with pressing means for pressing on opposing portions of the package at a distance from the open end thereof, a second pair of linkage arrangements that include the forming flaps ~~with two reciprocally movable halves provided with forming means~~ for forming each package adjacent the open end thereof, and a third pair of linkage arrangements ~~with two reciprocally movable halves provided with sealing means for closing and sealing the open end of each package~~ that include the one pair of halves which are reciprocally movable between the open and closed positions.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein each of the forming flaps is attached at its first end to one end of a respective upstanding arm ~~each half of the second pair of linkage arrangements between the third pair of linkage arrangements and the second pair of linkage arrangements~~.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein each of the forming flaps is biased by ~~means of~~ a spring, which is operatively connected to the first end of each of the forming flaps.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim **[[5]]1**, wherein each of the forming flaps is attached at its first end to an upper side of ~~each half of the second pair of linkage arrangements~~ a respective upstanding arm.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the forming flaps is generally T-shaped and oriented such that the second end of the flap forms the overhead horizontal leg of the T.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the three pairs of linkage arrangements for sealingly closing the open end of each package are vertically spaced apart, so that the movable halves of the linkage arrangements are freely movable in relation to each other during sealing and closing of each package.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the third pair of linkage arrangements ~~with two halves provided with~~ including the sealing means for sealingly closing the open end of each package is placed at a vertical distance from each half of the second pair of linkage arrangements, which vertical distance is adapted so that the flap is pivoted by the two halves of the third pair of

linkage arrangements from its first essentially vertical position to its second angled position for pressing two opposing portions of the package towards each other.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the first pair of linkage arrangements is connected to a first carrier movably provided on a guide,

the second pair of linkage arrangements is connected to a second carrier movably provided on said guide,

the third pair of linkage arrangements is connected to a third carrier movably provided on said guide, and the first, second and third carriers are connected to a cam curve disc.

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein each half of the first pair of linkage arrangements comprises an arm which in a first end is provided with the pressing means for pressing on a portion of the package at a distance from the open end thereof and which in a second end is pivotably connected to the first carrier by a link, and which between the first and second ends is provided with a fixed pivot point.

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein each half of the second pair of linkage arrangements comprises a first and a second arm,

which first and second arms being connected to each other in first ends thereof and provided with the forming means for forming each package adjacent the open end thereof,

which first arm in a second end is pivotably connected to the second carrier by a link and which between the first and second ends is provided with a fixed pivot point, and

which second arm in a second end is fixed and which in between the first and second ends is provided with a fixed pivot point.

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein each half of the third pair of linkage arrangements comprises an arm which in a first end is provided with the sealing means for closing and sealing the open end of each package and which in a second end is pivotably connected to the third carrier by a link, and which between the first and second ends is provided with a fixed pivot point.

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the third carrier is connected to the cam curve disc via a fourth carrier.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the fourth carrier is connected to the third carrier via an actuation member, which actuation member is adapted to change the mutual distance between the third and fourth carriers along the guide for biasing the sealing means for closing and sealing the open end of each package.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the fixed pivot point of the first arm is arranged substantially at the same distance from the forming means in a vertical direction as the fixed second end of the second arm, so that the pivotable portion of the first arm is longer than the pivotable portion of the second arm.

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the fixed pivot point of the arm of each half of the first linkage arrangements and the fixed pivot point of the arm of each half of the third linkage arrangements are arranged substantially at the fixed pivot point of the first arm and the fixed second end of the second arm of each half of the second linkage arrangements in the vertical direction.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a pair of package engaging members adapted to engage opposite sides of the package, each

of the forming flaps being mounted for pivoting movement relative to a respective one of the package engaging members.

24. (New) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein each package engaging member is U-shaped.

25. (New) An apparatus according to claim 23, wherein each forming flap is pivotally mounted on the respective package engaging member.

26. (New) An apparatus for sealing a package having an open end, the apparatus comprising:

at least one pair of sealing halves reciprocally movable between an open position and a closed sealing position, one of the halves comprising sealing means for sealingly closing the open end of the package while the at least one pair of sealing halves are in the closed sealing position;

forming means for forming the package adjacent the open end of the package, the forming means comprising a pair of forming flaps positioned below the sealing means, each forming flap being associated with a sealing half, each forming flap possessing a first end pivotally attached to a support and a second end adapted to follow the reciprocal movement of the associated sealing half; and

the forming flaps during the movement of the sealing halves towards the closed sealing position pressing two opposing portions of the package towards each other.